



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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June 26, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CASA EDITHA
FOUNDATION, INC. – AVA-LYN'S GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Ava-Lyn's Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Casa Editha Foundation, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department.

Ava-Lyn's Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys and girls ages 7-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children.

Ava-Lyn's Group Home is located in the Fifth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of our review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, employee records, and a facility inspection. We also observed the children living in the Group Home, reviewed relevant documents, and interviewed the Agency staff to obtain the children's perspective on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address a few deficient areas. For example, Ava-Lyn's Group Home needs to refinish the hallway closet and maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication. The Group Home also needs to ensure that children taking psychotropic medications are routinely seen by the prescribing physicians.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank Ava-Lyn's management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:MMO:JET:DC:AA:ek

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Ted Myers, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Erwin Bautista, Board Chair, Casa Editha Foundation, Inc.
Edith C. Alvarzando, Executive Director, Casa Editha Foundation, Inc.
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Casa Editha Foundation, Inc.
Ava-Lyn's Group Home
Pasadena, California 91104
License Number: 191222785
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Ava-Lyn's Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained and provides a home-like environment. The common quarters are neat and clean and there is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. However, the paint in the built-in hallway closet is peeling.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

- 1. Casa Editha Foundation management repaint the hallway closet.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

None.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school, are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

None.

IV. Recreation and Activities**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which

they have an interest. The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

None.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

The children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. In addition, the medication distribution logs are properly maintained. However, the children do not have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medication they are taking and the Group Home does not maintain adequate documentation to support that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Recommendations

2. Casa Editha Foundation management:

- a. Maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.
- b. Maintain documentation to support that children taking psychotropic medications are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Observation, review of relevant documents, and interviews with Agency staff

Sample Size: Five

Comments:

Children are not able to participate in the interviews, as they are developmentally delayed and unable to verbally communicate. As a result, our review was limited to observing the children, reviewing relevant documents, and interviewing Agency staff.

The children appear to be informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures, appear to feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children also appear to express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and staff appears to treat them with respect and dignity.

Children are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, have private visitors, and attend religious services of their choice.

The discipline policies appear to be consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children appear satisfied with meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

None.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and observation

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

None.

VIII. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Sample size for employee record evaluation: Three

Comments:

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation

None.

Ava-Lyn's Group Home

Prudens, CA. 91104

Issues Noted	Providers Plan of Correction
<p>I. Facility and Environment:</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p> <p>Casa Editha Foundation management refinish and repaint on the built-in hallway closet.</p>	<p>Provider's Plan of Correction was addressed already</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built-in hallway closet were finished and painted. The Administrator will monitor and check maintenance log weekly to ensure all repairs needed are done.
<p>V. Psychotropic Medication:</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p> <p>2. Casa Editha Foundation management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maintain current court authorization for children taking psychotropic medication. b. Maintain documentation to show that children taking psychotropic medications are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The facility hired a new psychiatrist and court authorization for children taking psychotropic medications are now current. B. Psychiatric Treatment/Progress Notes of children taking psychotropic medications are maintain and on file.

The Administrator and Executive Director will personally be responsible in implementing, review and monitor continuously the CAP and that all this are done on an ongoing basis.


LUIS L. ARAULLO - Administrator
March 19, 2009